**Events Committee**

**Events Committee Meeting**

**13 October 2026, 1010–1220 UTC**

**Members Present**

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| Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT)<br>Chair | Aiko Saito (JPN)<br>Vice-Chair | Walter Boddener (BRA) |
| Shevaun Bruland (AUS) | Saskia Clark (GBR) | Tayfun Erey (TUR) |
| Nuno Gomes (ANG) | Piotr Oleksiak (POL) | Spyros Krotsis<br>Olympic Classes SC representative |
| Geoff Woolley (NZL) | Lisa Darmanin (AUS)<br>Athlete Committee representative | Tian Wang (CHN) |
| Anna White (SWE) | | |

**In attendance**

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| Daniel Belcher (AUS)<br>Vice President | Cory Sertl (USA)<br>Vice President | Sophia Papamichalopoulos (CYP)<br>Vice President |
| David Graham<br>CEO | Michael Downing<br>Olympic Manager | Ferran Muniesa<br>Events Director |
| Corinne McKenzie<br>Events Consultant | Jaime Navarro<br>Director of Technical and Offshore | Tim Hancock<br>Project Manager |

**Apologies**

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| Ed Russo (FRA) | | |

1. **Opening of the Meeting**

   a. The Chair welcomed committee members and observers to the meeting, including Vice Presidents, the CEO, and other guests present, and noted that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live.

   The Olympic Manager noted, for the record, that Spyros Krotsis was attending as the new Olympic Classes Subcommittee representative, replacing Ben Remocker for this meeting.

   b. The Chair confirmed that a quorum was present.

   c. The Chair noted an apology received from a member prior to the meeting.

   d. The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register and no additional declarations were raised.

e. The Committee noted the minutes of the Events Committee meetings on 21 and 26 August 2026, available here. No corrections or requests for change had been received.

f. There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

2. **Update from the Board**

a. The Vice Presidents responsible for liaison with the Events Committee, joined by a further Vice President, briefed the Committee on the International Olympic Committee's "Fit for the Future" evaluation process, under which every Olympic sport is assessed against global appeal and broadcast value (weighted 60%), cost and operational complexity (20%), and athlete representation and universality (20%). Members were advised that the Board had asked the CEO to direct additional staff resources towards benchmarking World Sailing's existing and candidate events against the criteria, and that the Board was seeking to have the IOC engage directly with the World Sailing community, potentially including this Committee, on the process.

The Vice Presidents emphasised that the process underway in this Committee under Regulation 11.5 was unaffected procedurally, and that the Board was taking a deliberate approach: a recommendation would go to Council only once the Committee considered it ready, to be tabled for discussion and information at the Council meeting on 28 October 2026 alongside the Fit for the Future briefing.

we arrived at two clear action items. The first one is that we need to understand to the best of our ability how both our existing events and the leading candidate events compare against the detailed fit for the future criteria with as much data as possible. And the WS Board has asked the CEO to put additional staff resources against this and to work with the chair and members of this committee in order to complete it. Secondly, we want our community to hear directly from the IOC and whether, given the significance of the decision, further time should be taken for more detailed research before a recommendation is finalised. The Vice Presidents clarified that Council retained the option to delay a decision if not satisfied, and that the Regulation 11.5 process would continue to be informed by new information as it emerged, including from the IOC.

b. The Committee noted the minutes of the Board meetings since their last Events Committee meeting, available here.

3. **Update from the Events Committee Chair/Co-Chair**

The Chair gave a brief update, noting that time available for other topics outside preparation for today's agenda items had been very limited.

The Vice-Chair reported on the Asian Games, at which sailing had 14 events, 146 athletes, 111 boats and a record 23 competing nations for the Games. The new zero-point leader format had been successfully trialled. The Vice-Chair noted that while on-site spectatorship and footage had been strong, the event had not been broadcast due to media rights restrictions, and suggested this was an important

consideration for broadcast planning towards Los Angeles 2028. A qualification report arising from the Games would follow in due course.

4. **Events Decision Reg. 11.5**

a. The Chair set out the approach for the item: the Committee would consider, and vote on, option White as a potential first recommendation to Council; then options Blue A and Blue B together; and finally a possible 11th medal mixed team sailing proposal, which is not itself a Regulation 11.5 recommendation.

Option White retains the mixed dinghy and the mixed multihull (each subject to format review by the Format Working Group, with substantial reform expected for the mixed multihull's presentation) and replaces the men's and women's kite with a new men's and women's wingfoil free-fly slalom event, for further format development by the Format Working Group. The Format Working Group Leader raised that the tournament-style format proposed for the mixed multihull was feasible in principle, subject to further detail, and that the proposed wingfoil format was deliverable; the Committee noted a further suggestion that there is reputational opportunity for World Sailing in introducing new events. The Committee voted on whether to put forward option White to Council as its primary recommendation, Recommendation 1. Spyros Krotsis declared a conflict of interest on this item and abstained from voting accordingly.

**Events Committee Recommendation 1: Replace Kite with Wingfoil, retain MX Dinghy and MX Multihull**

It is recommended to decide on the four Events under Review as follows.

**Men's and Women's Kite**
***Change to a new Event*: *Men's and Women's Wingfoil (Freefly-Slalom).***
Basic characteristics
* races on a multi-leg, usually high speed downwind course combining jibes, tacks and sections of pumping or surfing on the hydrofoil without using the power of the wing.
* format is a series of multiple, short, seeded races, eliminating competitors until finals determine the podium.
The Events Committee shall assess the basic characteristics of this Event and, if necessary, further specify and/or modify them.

**Mixed Dinghy**
***Retain Event***
The Format Working Group of the Events Committee shall investigate and discuss format changes that can further improve global appeal of this Event.

**Mixed Multihull**
***Retain Event***
Basic characteristics
* Format and presentation of the Event must be substantially reformed and materially different to the current situation to achieve its broadcast potential and improve global appeal.
* Examples include but are not limited to a shorter tournament style format, quick course racing, with clear progression each day.
The Events Committee shall assess the basic characteristics of this Event and, if necessary, further specify and/or modify them.

Approved (10 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention).

The Chair summarised the discussion held with the Equipment Committee on options Blue A and Blue B, both of which replace the Kite with Wingfoil and introduce a mixed team tournament, in place of the mixed multihull (Blue A) or the mixed dinghy (Blue B). Members raised concerns including: the loss of an established and mature event in either case; the governance structure required to ensure World Sailing retains sufficient control over an externally-funded event; the financial strength and duration of the proposed funding foundation; athlete weight and crew configuration implications, particularly for women, under the proposed eight-person crew; quota impacts; increased cost and complexity of organisation; and qualification pathway complications for athletes already qualified under existing events. The Committee voted separately on whether to put forward options Blue A and Blue B to Council as recommendations. Option Blue A: not approved (4 in favour, 8 against, 1 abstention). Option Blue B: not approved (1 in favour, 11 against, 1 abstention).

The Chair introduced a further proposal, arising from the Regulation 11.5 process but not itself a Regulation 11.5 recommendation: that the relevant World Sailing bodies set in motion a process to apply to the IOC for an 11th medal in Mixed Team Racing. Members discussed the potential advantages, including increased universality, and risks, including quota availability, noting that the mixed team tournament format considered under Blue A and Blue B would require 36 additional quota places that could not be accommodated. The CEO advised that the question of permissibility would need to be put to the IOC before further detail on format or equipment could be settled, and that any positive response would return to this Committee for further decision. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to broaden the question from team racing specifically to a mixed team sailing variant generally, to allow flexibility in the format and equipment ultimately proposed. The Committee voted on whether a mixed team sailing variant should be developed as an event to be considered as an 11th medal proposal. One member's response, received by email, could not be counted as it referred to the original rather than the revised Recommendation.

**Recommendation 11th Medal – Mixed Team Event**

A mixed team sailing variant be developed as an event to be considered as an eleventh (11) medal proposal by the respective World Sailing bodies.

Approved (10 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention).

The Chair closed the item by recording the Committee's thanks to the Leader of the Regulation 11.5 Working Group and the Vice-Chair for their leadership of the Working Group, to the Chair of the Equipment Committee for the joint process, and to World Sailing staff, in particular the Olympic Manager and the Director of Technical and Offshore, for their support throughout. The Equipment Committee was to meet later the same day, with the joint report to be finalised for submission to Council the following day.

5. **World Sailing Championships**

b. The Events Director gave an update on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Fortaleza, Brazil, reporting 74 MNAs and more than 450 entries confirmed to date, regular contact with the host organisers, and progress on the starting system for the classes. Supporting regulations and equipment regulations were expected to be published by the end of the week.

c. The Events Director gave an update on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia, Poland, including the Para European Championships and Inclusion World Championships to be held there, reporting a recent visit from the host organisers to finalise the para events, and that the notice of race was expected to be published by the end of the week. Further work was continuing on ceremonies, fan zones and related planning, in coordination with the communications team.

6. **Olympic Sailing Competition – Los Angeles 2028**

a. The Olympic Manager gave an update on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, noting a considerable increase in detailed planning since the last meeting. LA28's sailing team has grown in size and experience. Venue design and scheduling at Belmont Shore, a multi-sport venue, remains the focus of ongoing work with LA28, with no expectation that sailing's own venue or attendance there will change. The front-of-house spectator area is a current area of focus, alongside the test event, for which LA28 continues to work through funding and scope; Sailing remains the only sport still planning to hold a full LA28 operated test event. Exact dates are not yet confirmed; the notice of race is expected to follow by the Annual Conference.

b. The Olympic Manager gave an update on implementation of the Council-approved format recommendations. Recommendations 3, 5, 8 and 12 (audience-friendly terminology, integration of race officials' audio into the broadcast, on-time starting technology, and course layout) have progressed but are not yet able to be called implemented; final documentation is expected towards the end of the year. Recommendations 1 and 2 (visual identification of athletes and their national identity) are also progressing, with the Team Leaders and Coaches Commission expected to bring a recommendation on athlete presentation to the Committee at the Annual Conference. No points of concern were raised.

c. The Vice-Chair and the Olympic Manager updated the Committee on the qualification system for Los Angeles 2028. The Vice-Chair's working group is compiling a report on the continental qualification process, drawing on the 2026 Asian Games as the first continental qualifier, for consideration ahead of the Committee's next meeting. The Olympic Manager reported that the evaluation panel has made its first series of recommendations to the Board, including: a Last Chance Regatta proposed for Q1 2028 in Europe; a centralised model for the two-person continental qualifiers, retaining continental quota places at a single regatta hosted in Europe, in place of separate per-continent regattas, on cost-efficiency grounds; and, for the one-person events across Asia, Oceania and Africa, a single host regatta, pending Board consideration. Planning for Europe remains under consideration, including the possibility of sailing's inclusion in the 2027 European Games. The 2027 Pan American Games, and the 2027 Pacific

Games qualification events are confirmed and locked in. In total, 16 qualification events are planned across the programme, a reduction from the previous quad.

In discussion, a member noted the importance of considering restrictions on athlete numbers and accessibility for some countries at multisport games used as qualifiers. A Vice President noted the growing significance of regional games to Olympic qualification, highlighting sailing's anticipated inclusion in the 2027 European Games, to be hosted in Turkey in June 2027, as a further qualification opportunity, with further detail to follow.

d. The Project Manager updated the Committee on digital officiating systems. Testing of start-line technology continues, including trials of the Vakaros Halo system. Results for dinghy classes have been positive, with a solution for board classes still in development, including a hybrid drone/light system trialled at the 2026 iQFOiL World Championships in Weymouth. Classes are currently choosing between two systems, Sailtech and Vakaros, for the World Sailing Championships that will then carry through to the Games. Automated finishing, with preliminary results passed automatically to scoring systems, has also been tested successfully from both providers. Work continues on drone umpiring and protest initiating, particularly for board and kite classes, in coordination with the International Umpires Sub-Committee, alongside development of real-time athlete communication tools for protests and penalties, which remain at an earlier stage of development.

e. The Leader of the Format Working Group updated the Committee on formats for qualification events for Los Angeles 2028 and for Olympic Classes regattas, covering competition structure, race programme, finals, scoring and course management for qualification events and major international regattas. For large fleets, the format comprises a two-day preliminary series, a three-day elimination series and finals, with race numbers varying by class; the top ten boats in dinghy classes progress to two single-point final races, and the windsurfing and kite classes will use five-competitor quarterfinals and semi-finals. Points carry forward between stages on a net-points basis. A qualification score adjustment, capping the gap between adjacent competitors at nine points during qualification events and major regattas will apply (with the Olympic eighteen-point gap at the test event and the Games only), re-based to the leader's score, with staff to finalise discard arrangements for the windsurfing and kite classes with the classes concerned.

The Vice-Chair noted that the time limit for finals had been unclear at the Asian Games, with a target time set but no formal time limit applied, and asked that this be clarified. The Leader of the Format Working Group noted the point. The Olympic Manager sought confirmation that the proposed format applies consistently regardless of regatta size, with fleet splits made only where entry numbers require them; this was confirmed.

7. **World Sailing Calendar**

a. No update was provided under this item.

8. **Proposals Assigned to the Events Committee**

a. None.

b. None.

9. **AOB**

a. The Chair reminded members that the Board expects each committee to have its 2027 work plan ready by year end, together with a report on fulfilment of the 2026 work plan, to be progressed with Working Group Leaders and the Vice Presidents responsible for liaison ahead of the Annual Conference.

The Olympic Manager reminded members who had not yet registered for the Annual Conference to do so as a priority.

b. A member asked whether there was a process, between now and the November meeting, to bring forward bolder Regulation 11.5 proposals within the existing ten-event programme, given reservations some members held about the mixed team tournament's reliance on a third party controlling an event. The Chair responded that the Committee's recommendations arising from today's meeting would be reported to Council, which would determine any further process; any further options would need to be developed with Board input rather than independently by the Committee, and the Chair confirmed that the Regulation 11.5 process could continue to return to the Committee for further decisions as matters developed.

*The meeting was closed at approximately 1220 UTC.*